Claims:

1. A hand holdable portable reader device (200) capable of reading data stored in a memory device attached to a cartridge-type data storage device said reader device comprising:

a signal receiver means (304) capable of receiving data signals emitted from said data storage device;

a memory means (306) capable of storing said data signals received by said receiver means;

a printer device (311) configured to print at least some of said data received from said receiver means onto a print media; and

a processor device (305) operable to control said printer to print said data on said print media.

2. The reader device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said printer is configured for printing a label of a size and shape suitable for direct attachment to a said data storage cartridge.

3. The reader device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said processor is configured to select a predetermined selection of information items describing said data storage device from said data received from said data storage device, and to control said printer to print said predetermined set of information items onto a said print media in a predetermined format.

4. The reader device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a keypad control means, and a display device, said keypad control means being finger operable for inputting user commands to said processor, for controlling said

display device for scanning through data items describing said data storage device, said data items retrieved from said memory means.

5. The reader device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a keypad control means configured for operating such that upon a user activating a key of said keypad control means, said printer device operates to print a predetermined selection of data items describing said data storage device, on to said print media.

6. The reader device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said processor device is operable under control of a dedicated operating system stored in a read only memory device.

7. The reader device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an interface means for interfacing with an external processor.

8. The reader device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reader device comprises a display means, and said processor operates under control of said operating system and a keypad data entry means (310) to display a selection of user selectable menu items on said display means.

9. The reader device as claimed in claim 1, having a keypad device (310) comprising a print key wherein said processor operates to receive a print signal produced by activation of said print key, and sends a print signal to said printer for printing data items input via said receiver.

10. The reader device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a port (202) adapted to locate said data storage device and said receiver means is located within said port such that when a said data storage device is inserted into

said port, a memory device of said data storage device lies in close physical proximity to said receiver means.

11. The reader device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a housing for accepting a roll of blank labels.

12. The reader device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a port adapted to locate said cartridge type data storage device, said port comprising a recess specifically shaped and formed to accept said tape data storage device.

13. The reader device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a port adapted to locate said cartridge type data storage device, said port comprising a surface against which said data storage device may be offered in close proximity to said surface, such that a receiver device may detect signals transmitted by said data storage device.

14. A hand-holdable portable reader device (200) for reading data from a memory device contained on a data storage device, said reader device comprising:

a casing (201) having a port capable of accepting a said data storage device;

reading means for reading data from said memory device of said data storage device, said reading means located in said port;

processor means (305) configured for controlling said reading means and for accepting data signals received by said reading means;

memory means containing an operating system for controlling said processor means by a sequence of command signals;

display means (308) for displaying said data obtained from said receiving means in a user readable format;

keypad (310) data entry means capable of receiving input commands for activation of said menu items; and

printer means (311) operable under control of said processor means for printing a label in response to a user command signal input activated by said keypad data entry means, wherein said label contains at least some of the data read from the memory device of the data storage device.